Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently amended) A framework for controlling access rights to digital content in a distributed information system comprising:

first storage means for storing a reference to a user registered in said framework;

second storage means for storing a reference to digital content registered for said user; and

third storage means for storing a reference to a digital secure repository registered for said user, the digital secure repository containing storage means for storing a unique identifier and a reference to said digital content, said digital secure repository being associated with said user independently of a particular user device and storing access rights to said digital content granted to said user by a provider and a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content, said digital content being stored outside of said digital secure repository on a storage device accessible to a user, said digital secure repository being accessible to said user independently of said provider so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority.

2.   (Previously presented) The framework according to claim 1, further comprising:

fourth storage means for storing a reference to an authorized rendering device registered for said user.

3.   (Original) The framework according to claim 1, further comprising:

a communication link for establishing communication to one or more of the set of said secure repository and said rendering device.

4.   (Original) The framework according to claim 1, wherein said secure repository further comprises storage means for storing a digital key for decrypting said digital content.

5.   (Previously presented) The framework according to claim 1, wherein said secure

repository further comprises storage means for storing said list of authorized rendering devices.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) The framework according to claim 1, wherein said secure repository further comprises storage means for storing a reference to said user.

8.   (Previously presented) The framework according to claim 1, wherein said secure repository further comprises a communication link for establishing communication to one or more of the set of said framework and an authorized rendering device.

9.   (Original) The framework according to claim 1, wherein the framework is realized as a set of web applications forming an Internet web site.

10.   (Original) An Internet web site offering a framework for controlling access rights to digital content in a distributed information system according to claim 1.

11.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling access rights to digital content in a distributed information system comprising the steps of:
        registering a user with a framework for controlling access rights to digital content in said distributed information system;
        registering a digital secure repository for said user, said digital secure repository being associated with said user independently of a particular user device, said digital secure repository storing access rights to said digital content granted to said user by a provider and a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content, said digital secure repository being accessible to said user independently of said provider;
        registering digital content for said user, said digital content being stored outside of said digital secure repository on a storage device accessible to a user; and
        controlling the rendering of said digital content in accordance with the access rights to said digital content and the list of authorized rendering devices stored in said digital secure repository so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering

device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority.

12.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein registering a user further comprises the steps of:

receiving a message from said user comprising a reference to said digital secure repository;

validating said reference to said digital secure repository; and

storing a reference to said user.

13.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein registering a digital secure repository further comprises the steps of:

receiving a message from said user comprising credentials of the user;

validating said credentials; and

if the credentials are valid, issuing a new digital secure repository, storing a reference to said issued digital secure repository, and sending it to the user.

14.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein registering digital content further comprises the steps of:

receiving a message from said user comprising an order request and a reference to the digital secure repository registered for said user;

validating said reference; and

if the reference is valid:

performing purchase formalities; and

if all formalities are performed:

encrypting a document encryption key associated with the requested digital content with a public key associated with said digital secure repository;

returning the encrypted document encryption key to the user; and

registering the purchased digital content for said user.

15.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of registering an authorized rendering device for said user.

16.   (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein registering a rendering device further comprises the steps of:

receiving a message from said user comprising credentials of the user and a reference to said rendering device to be registered;

validating said credentials;

if the credentials are valid, storing the reference of the rendering device associated with said user.

17.   (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 11.

18.   (Currently amended) A method for rendering digital content on a rendering device comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for rendering digital content in a predetermined form;

reading information about access rights to said digital content from a digital secure repository, said digital secure repository being associated with a user independently of a particular user device, said digital secure repository storing access rights to said digital content granted to said user by a provider and a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content, said digital secure repository being accessible to said user independently of said provider, said digital content being stored outside of said digital secure repository on a storage device accessible to a user; and

if the stored access rights cover the requested form of rendering the digital content and the rendering device is on the stored list of authorized rendering devices:

getting a document encryption key encrypted with a public key associated with said rendering device;

decrypting the document encryption key with a private key associated with said rendering device;

decrypting said digital content with said document encryption key; and

rendering said digital content in the requested form so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority.

19. (Original) The method for rendering digital content on a rendering device according to claim 18, wherein the step of getting a document encryption key further comprises the steps:

determining from a storage device associated with said rendering device whether or not the digital content is bound to said rendering device and if yes receiving said document encryption key from said storage device.

20. (Original) The method for rendering digital content on a rendering device according to claim 18, wherein the step of getting a document encryption key further comprises the step of receiving said document encryption key from a digital secure repository.

21. (Original) The method for rendering digital content on a rendering device according to claim 18, wherein the step of reading from a digital secure repository further comprises the step of communicating with said digital secure repository over a communication link.

22. (Original) The method for rendering digital content on a rendering device according to claim 18, wherein the step of reading from a digital secure repository further comprises the step of retrieving said digital secure repository from a storage device also keeping said digital content.

23. (Original) The method for rendering digital content on a rendering device according to claim 18, wherein the step of decrypting said digital content further comprises the step of retrieving said digital content from a storage device.

24. (Original) The method for rendering digital content on a rendering device according to claim 18, wherein the step of decrypting said digital content further comprises the step of

retrieving said digital content from over a communication link as downloaded or streaming data.

25.   (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 18.

26.   (Currently amended) A method for binding digital content to a rendering device, the method comprising the following steps:

establishing a connection from said rendering device to a digital secure repository, said digital secure repository being associated with a user independently of a particular user device and storing access rights to said digital content granted to said user by a provider and a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content, said digital secure repository being accessible to said user independently of said provider so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority, said digital content being stored outside of said digital secure repository on a storage device accessible to a user;

requesting from said digital secure repository access rights for specified digital content; and

if binding is allowed according to the access rights stored in said digital secure repository, receiving a respective document encryption key encrypted with a public key associated with the rendering device and storing the encrypted key for later decrypting the respective digital content.

27.   (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 26.

28.   (Currently amended) A method for storing digital content from a rendering device onto a storage device, the method comprising the following steps:

establishing a connection from said rendering device to a digital secure repository, said digital secure repository being associated with a user independently of a particular user device, said digital secure repository storing access rights to said digital content granted to said user by a provider and a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content, said digital secure repository being accessible to said user independently of said provider so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority, said digital content being stored outside of said digital secure repository on a storage device accessible to a user;

requesting from said digital secure repository access rights for specified digital content; and

if storing is allowed according to the access rights stored in said digital secure repository, receiving respective document encryption keys encrypted with respective public keys of all rendering devices registered in said digital secure repository and storing the encrypted keys together with encrypted digital content on said storage device.

29.   (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 28.

30.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling the rendering of digital content to which a user has been granted access rights by a provider, comprising the steps of:

storing said access rights to said digital content in a digital secure repository that is associated with said user independently of a particular user device and accessible to said user independently of said provider;

storing said digital content outside of said digital secure repository on a storage device accessible to a user;

storing in said digital secure repository a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content; and

controlling the rendering of said digital content on a rendering device in accordance with the access rights to said digital content and the list of authorized rendering devices stored in said

digital secure repository so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority.

31.   (Previously presented) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 30.